



SITUATION REPORT #137



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: January 4, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	3735
Recovered	3212
Deaths	35
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	10
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	3
Tests Submitted –	Number
Total Negative Results (Walla Walla County) unable to update at DOH	35,275
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	197
College Place	481
Dixie	15
Prescott	68
Touchet/Lowden	51
Waitsburg	61
Walla Walla	2862
Total	3735



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Confirmed Cases by Age	
Confirmed Cases by Age	Number
Under 20	456
20-39	1529
40-59	1117
60-79	487
Over 80	146
Confirmed Cases by Gender	
Confirmed Cases by Gender	Number
Female	1585
Male	2150
TOTAL	3735

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 1/6 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH has hired a nurse and a Local Health Officer
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH has 600 doses of annual Flu Vaccine for all residents
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH 'Health Space' and CREST training completed for health data management
- DCH and BMAC continue to coordinate community mask distributions
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, January 5th
- DCH attending M-W-F DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health – Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response
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- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 01/11/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
		No current requests pending	

January 4, 2021

2. Effective Strategies and Successes *(annotations for successes through the end of November archived to abbreviate this report)*

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH)/Providence St Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) flu vaccine clinic at First Fruits; 700 doses administered.
- PSMMC/EMS planning effort to provide rapid testing to first responder community.
- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.



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- EMS first responders have gone through PSMCC testing site(s) according to new plans giving them priority for rapid testing.
- VA survey out to staff regarding “will staff get vaccination” (300 have completed the survey with a majority expressing interest in getting the vaccine).
- PSMCC stated that previous experience gained in working with WWDCH and other partners on Flu vaccinations has had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- Federal government passes continued COVID relief funding and individual assistance.
- Reached a milestone of 136 Unified Command Situation Reports at the end of December. The Partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.
- DCH/PSMMC partnership for Community provider vaccination clinic (phase 1a) last week worked well. PSMMC has done a great job vaccinating internally and providing vaccine to others who are eligible.
- Yakima Valley Family Medical Center received 30 vaccines and were able to vaccinate all their staff last week.

3. Risks and challenges

- COVID-19 Cases
 - Total Confirmed Cases: 3735
 - ❖ Recovered: 3212
 - ❖ Active: 487
 - Home Isolation: 477
 - ❖ Hospitalized: 13
 - 10 are Walla Walla County residents
 - 3 are Out of County residents
 - ❖ Deaths: 35 (press release later today for 2 most recent deaths)
 - Washington State Penitentiary (included in numbers above):
 - ❖ 100 incarcerated active
 - ❖ 19 staff active
 - Trends
 - ❖ DOC currently doing mass testing; because of this we should see an increase in cases – not an indicator of community cases
 - ❖ Rates per 100K are 12/21 to 1/3: 834 (includes WSP cases)
 - ❖ Continue to see household transmission
 - ❖ Some workplace cases
- Concern for rapid spread at congregated facilities.
- Cross-jurisdictional coordination with Umatilla County, OR, Benton/Franklin County, WA.
- Need to continue to monitor for behavioral health issues.
- Cold/flu season; respiratory symptoms may be confused with COVID and require workers to stay home.
- ‘COVID fatigue’ is very high with additional challenges presented by winter; more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.
- People moving indoors due to cold; more close contacts.
- Face coverings not being worn in private even though 95% report wearing masks when in public.
- People are still reporting to work with mild symptoms, or with symptomatic family members.
- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.



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- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- State is reporting a glove shortage; only order what you need.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Lots of businesses struggling with restrictions.
- Challenges presented by distribution of COVID vaccine.
- Large call volumes with questions about when vaccines will be available.
- WWDCH is temporarily down one nurse for staffing
- Contact tracing is seeing increased numbers of people refusing to speak with the tracers or provide information about exposure.
- Needle shortage is an issue across the state; SEOC is working to fill requests
- REDi Healthcare Coalition reporting shortage of dialysis supplies – not yet crisis of care but being monitored.
- New strain of COVID seen in UK is highly transmissible.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Emergency Management is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- WWEM continued collection of donations.
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.
- WWEM distribution of resources.
- DCH weekend staffing.
- Bi-weekly ESF6 Human Services weekly conference calls.
- PSMMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting every Thursday.
- DCH and PSMMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary. WNG is providing testing support.
- Washington National Guard deployed to assist with testing at LTC facility to meet CMS requirements.
- LTC facilities to continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
- PSMMC Urgent Care drive through testing operating with extended hours, 7AM – 6 PM.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Will begin messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- PSMMC is now offering rapid testing for first responders through the Urgent Care drive through or College Place Express Care. Asymptomatic testing is available through drive through only.
- REDi Healthcare Coalition:



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- Eastern Washington situational awareness meetings every Tuesday from 3-3:45. Feedback from meeting is then provided to DOH.
- Situational awareness response surveys Tuesdays/Friday 8 – 11 am. (Healthcare/providers). Information from surveys is communicated with DOH.
- Weekly workgroup meeting Thursday's 3 – 4 PM.
- Looking at crisis standards of care planning.
- Veterans Administration continues the process of vaccinating staff and will begin vaccinating Veterans this week.
- LTC facilities have started vaccinating and will continue this week.
- Walla Walla Public Schools Board meeting tomorrow regarding return to hybrid learning model.
- College Place Public Schools will return to hybrid learning model for K-5 next week, Middle School will start 1/25.
- Chamber of Commerce doing follow up with businesses regarding new funding/stimulus bill. Waiting for word for restrictions (hoping for limited in-person seating for dining).
- New DCH Communication Coordinator starting next week.
- Discussion at today's local vaccine planning meeting about expansion into other first responders (law enforcement).

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>



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- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office